

Issue: October - December 2021

A Force for Positive CHANGE

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## A Legacy of Being There for One Another

As the calendar year draws to a close, I wanted to pass along the gratitude Maricopa County Adult Probation Department (MCAPD) Leadership team has for the employees that have kept us operating and on mission during 2021. Obviously, along with everyone else, our challenges continued during 2021. Despite them, our focus on that which is most important continued in terms of resourcing the Court we serve as well as enhancing public safety. I continue to be proud to be affiliated with MCAPD staff and the broader Judicial Branch of government serving the residents of Maricopa County. We are filled with professionals who choose public service and sacrifice as a way to leverage their considerable talents for the benefit of their communities.

More than their talent, I am impressed with their heart for each other and for those outside the Department. We recently held our annual Turkey Feast event in downtown Phoenix. It is such a meaningful and dynamic event, children received a gift bag for the holidays donated by Judicial Branch employees, met Santa and Mrs. Claus, and received a to-go turkey dinner. There were vaccines available for the flu and COVID-19, job resources, and healthcare community partners present. MCAPD has held this event for decades, and while it necessarily adapted from a sit-down buffet style dinner the last couple of years, staff found a way to have it continue. It's a small picture of what 1,200 people do every day across one of the largest counties in the country – they give, they serve, and to the betterment of their communities. I have seen them rally around one another in the face of loss this year to bring comfort and care to colleagues and the families of those colleagues. In fact, one of my regrets over the pandemic has been that those new to the organization have not been able to fully experience one of the best parts of working here – the proximity to such great people.

To our staff, my hope is that during this season you get some time away with the people who matter most to you and doing what renews you. I have never been more confident that our best days as an organization are in front of us. MCAPD turns 50 next month and I am so grateful to have the team we do getting ready to shape the next 50 years. Please continue to rally around one another, focus on our mission, and take care of each other. We are grateful for each of you and appreciate all you do to serve the Court and MCAPD. It remains a privilege and honor to serve alongside you.



## Bananas About BananaTag

By Eunique Day

Have you noticed anything different lately in your Outlook? Emails that appear creative, stylish, and vibrant, but you couldn't pinpoint exactly what's different, perhaps? Did Outlook have an update? When did these new features get released?

The secret? BananaTag

Bananarama? The 80's pop band? No, **BananaTag**.

BananaTag is an internal communications software that offers email distribution, tracking, and analytics. The software allows email delivery and open rates to be tracked to capture the big picture of internal communication successes and failures.

In a non-pandemic world, emails are often an afterthought, a routine or standard means of communication. However, if the last 18 months of remote and/or hybrid work schedules have taught us anything, the sheer volume and types of email communications we receive are limitless. BananaTag's modern, creative templates, and user-friendly interface liven up the routine, spur creativity, and drive increased interest among mailing list recipients.

The Judicial Branch's Internal Communication Committee launched the initial use of BananaTag software within the organization for the Off the Record and Points of Pride publications. The success of this transition caught the eye of the MCAPD Communication's Committee, and BananaTag is now the method of distributing Did You Know? articles. Divisions within MCAPD are excited to explore new ideas and methods for Department-wide usage of BananaTag.

#### BananaTag Features 101:

- Email distribution tracking
- Ability to send test email messages without impacting tracking results
- Custom, downloadable reporting of analytics (i.e., open rates, location, type of device)
- Data privacy (encrypted site and analytics may be reported from users anonymously)
- Visually appealing email design (for both desktops and mobile devices)
- Ability to hyperlink and embed digital media directly into body of message
- Collaborative templates may be worked on in groups and/or shared, saved, and replicated for future use (collaborators need a BananaTag account)

## Cyber Security Awareness Month

By Vanessa Gillette

In October of 2020, the Office of Enterprise Technology (OET) Information Security (InfoSec) team announced the launch of an InfoSec Cyber Security Champions Program. An email was sent out to County and Judicial Branch employees to recruit staff who were interested in becoming Cyber Security Champions. The goal of this program is to build a stronger human firewall against cybersecurity threats and promote awareness within their respective departments. The Cyber Security Champions would serve as the "boots on the ground" liaison to disseminate informational materials.

Every year, October is recognized as National Cyber Security Awareness Month. This past October, the OET InfoSec team celebrated by holding four weekly Lunch & Learn meetings via Microsoft Teams to help spread awareness. The one-hour long sessions advocated for security-awareness practices. Throughout the month, the Department's Cyber Security Champions informed their respective units of these educational opportunities and shared knowledge by providing additional cybersecurity tips. Additionally, prizes were provided to the first 25 government employees who completed a scavenger hunt



by answering questions around the use of County technology resources.

#### Listed below are some best practices for staying cyber safe at home:

- Use anti-virus software/malware
- Keep software updated and enable automatic updates where available
- Use strong, unique passwords and change them regularly
- Secure your devices when not in use
- Turn off Bluetooth and Wi-Fi when not in use
- Use a virtual private network (VPN)
- Enable multi-factor authentication
- Secure your Wi-Fi
- Keep your work-related data separate from your personal data
- Remain skeptical of all requests for sensitive information
- Think before you click





### A Time for Celebration and Reflection: DIA One Year Anniversary

By Jennifer Ferguson

On October 28, 2020, the Data Integrity & Analytics (DIA) Department of the Judicial Branch was created. The DIA was formed by combining the teams engaged in data analysis, planning, and research activities across the MCAPD, Maricopa County Juvenile Probation Department (MCJPD), and Superior Court. As the DIA reached its one-year anniversary in October of 2021, the DIA leadership team planned a celebration event at Encanto Park to recognize the accomplishments of the past year and reflect on the future.

When the DIA was envisioned, the leadership team desired a combined team within the Judicial Branch focused on data integrity and analytics to increase the amount of collaboration and shared resources, while still maintaining a high level of customer service and support for MCAPD, MCJPD, and Superior Court. It was also anticipated that the DIA would lend support to an environment that was innovative and focused on upholding one of the Department's key initiatives, Continuous Improvement. The accomplishments of the DIA over the past year provides evidence that the initial vision was realized in practice.

The DIA is successful in sharing resources that have resulted in all team members being able to participate in training on SAS Viya, a statistical software for analysis and data visualizations. The first tangible use of this tool for the Judicial Branch was the presentation of the Employee Satisfaction Survey results in an interactive dashboard. The DIA also collaboratively created its own mission, vision, and values that reflect the ongoing commitment to "providing accurate and meaningful information to help make data-driven decisions across the Judicial Branch." Within MCAPD, DIA team members have provided support to initiatives such as the Justice-Involved Women caseloads and Continuous Improvement Initiative.

Robert Celaya, a Business Intelligence Analyst with the DIA, summarized his perception of the value of the DIA in increasing collaboration: "I have been here for almost four years and prior to the DIA, I never met ANY of the other analysts from Superior Court or MCJPD. DIA has everything to do with the connections made." These connections will help the DIA continue to support each of the Departments of the Judicial Branch. The DIA is looking forward the continued growth of a data culture and the role it will play in providing access to information. The DIA can assist in data requests, reports, research projects, surveys, visualizations, and Department statistics. Please reach out if we can help in any way.

# **MCAPD Welcomes 17 New Officers**

By Jim Sine

Please join Staff Development and the Safety Unit in welcoming 17 new officers to MCAPD. On November 18, 2021, these officers were sworn in by Judge Starr and welcomed by Chief Michael Cimino in the Board of Supervisors Auditorium. The graduation included two separate New Officer Training, Education, and Skill-Building (NOTES) Academy classes. One class began in August and the second began in October.

At the completion of their training, the new officers became secondary in their caseloads for two weeks, giving them time to become acquainted with the job and informed about their supervised individuals. For those who are unaware, this two-week transitionary period post training is a practice MCAPD has been using for approximately 18 months now, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Operations have run smoothly for new officers starting out in the field, as they have worked with the previous officer in the caseload and/or a mentor in addition to their supervisor.

Of our 17 new officers, 13 are probation officers and four are surveillance officers. The four new surveillance officers are Kimberly Armstrong, Chris Curry, Carla Cacciamani-Eggers, and Carlos Diaz. Chris and Carlos have been stationed at Black Canyon Building (BCB), while Kimberly and Carla are stationed at the Western Regional Center (WRC). Some of the Department may recognize Carlos from his former days working in dispatch. Jessica Menjivar Rocha, Yajaira Espinoza, Gabriela Arias, and Monserrat Perez will also be working out of WRC. Brenton Thorpe and Kristin Przybylski went to the Probation Service Center (PSC). Mailena McCullough-Berger and Tianna Parrish have joined the PSC officers on the Eastside at Scottsdale. Alejandro Noriega was assigned to SouthPort, while BCB also welcomes Makenna Castel, Forrest Lanhart, and Jacob Banta.

Of course, the NOTES Academy would not be complete without the expertise of our adjunct faculty. Staff Development and the Safety Unit express deep gratitude to all of them for taking time out of their busy schedules to help us train our newest officers. Congratulations to everyone for making it through NOTES Academy and good luck with your future endeavors. You have all chosen a great department to work with! One last thing, looking ahead to 2022 MCAPD has very good news to report. The Department has scheduled NOTES Academy to operate similar to how it did in the past, pre-COVID. Meaning NOTES Academy will include the Administrative Office of the Courts Probation Officer Certification Academy. The Department knows this is an important step in getting officers fully trained prior to assuming a caseload for several reasons. Here is to a successful 2022!



NOTES Academy graduates pictured at their graduation ceremony on November 18, 2021. Back row from left to right: Makenna Castel, Tianna Parrish, Greg Berry, Forrest Lanhart, Brenton Thorpe, Kristin Przybylski, Jessica Menjivar Rocha, and Alejandro Noriega. Front row from left to right: Carla Cacciamani-Eggers, Monserrat Perez, Gabriela Arias, Kimberly Armstrong, Chris Curry, Yajaira Espinoza, and Mailena McCullough-Berger.

## Sean McMillen Promoted to Division Director

By Eunique Day



Sean McMillen was promoted to division director of the Compliance and Supportive Services Division, effective November 29, 2021. In his new role, Sean will lead the following specialized services: Unsupervised Probation, Records, Financial Compliance, Indirect Services, Community Restitution, Interstate Compact Outgoing, and Field Support.

Sean joined MCAPD in 2011 and has served the Department in a variety of capacities. He began as a probation officer stationed at the Scottsdale office, supervising a standard caseload from 2011 to 2013. In 2013, Sean transferred to the Court Liaison Unit as a Court Liaison Adult Probation Officer (CLAPO). He served there until 2016, when he was promoted to supervisor. As a MCAPD supervisor for the last five years, Sean has overseen a standard unit at Northport and a specialized domestic violence unit at BCB.

Sean has made significant contributions to the Department through a variety of committees and special projects, including the Microsoft Bookings rollout, Oxygen Forensic Search Tool workgroup, and the newly initiated Probation Violation workgroup. He has also been involved with the BCB boosters, evidence-based practice masters, risk reduction, evidence-based practice webpage redesign, and evidence-based practice evolution. Outside of work, Sean enjoys running, cooking, collecting bourbon, and traveling.

In his new position, Sean is most excited to learn about all the programs and units that are a part of the Compliance and Supportive Services Division.

### Tiffany Grissom Promoted to Division Director

By Eunique Day



Tiffany Grissom was promoted to division director of the Community Transition and Support Division, effective November 29, 2021. In her new role, Tiffany will oversee the leadership of the following specialized services: valley-wide Reentry, Literacy Centers, Seriously Mentally III, and Community Reintegration.

Over the past 21 years, Tiffany has served the Department in a variety of assignments. She started her time with MCAPD in 2000 in the Sex Offender Division as an on-call surveillance officer before becoming a probation officer in 2001 where she gained experience working with standard probation supervision, intensive probation supervision, and GPS monitoring. In 2009, Tiffany was promoted to supervisor and has since overseen the following units:

sex offender GPS monitoring, standard probation supervision, Veterans Court, interstate compact incoming, Drug Court, and supervised youth.

Tiffany has presented at national conferences such as the National Association of Drug Court Professionals, American Probation and Parole Association, and Arizona Association of Drug Court Professionals. She has made significant contributions to the Department through various committees and projects such as serving as an elected board member for the Arizona Association of Drug Court Professionals. Tiffany was also a member of the Judicial Branch Career Development Committee and participated in an MCAPD initiative for Veterans Court which received a National Association of Counties (NACo) Achievement Award. Additionally, Tiffany received a COVID-hero award for leading the Drug Court and Juvenile Transfer Offender Program (JTOP) programs during the pandemic and reinstating virtual and in-person court.

Tiffany is known for her calm demeanor and strong relationships with her peers and those she leads. Outside of work, Tiffany enjoys hiking, skiing, watching basketball and baseball, and backpacking in remote areas. Tiffany has restored two vintage Airstream trailers over the past few years and loves renovation projects. She is married with a set of twin 16-year-old daughters that keep her and her wife very busy on soccer fields across the country. Tiffany brings a wealth of knowledge, project management, and experience to the director role. The MCAPD Executive Team is very excited to welcome her to the team.

# Wes Shipley Returns to MCAPD as Manager

By Eunique Day



In the fall of 2021, former Division Director Wes Shipley announced his retirement, creating a promotional opportunity for one of the Department's supervisors. MCAPD is fortunate to have Wes back and better than ever in a new role: Professional Conduct and Special Projects Manager.

Wes joined the Department in January of 1990, coming from the State of Illinois with a background in law enforcement. In the Department, he has worked as a probation officer in standard probation supervision, intensive probation supervision, presentence, and was one of the first probation officers to work in the newly created juvenile transfer caseload. Wes also served as a supervisor in the regional field operations, intensive probation, and the sex offender unit. As a division director, he helped create the first

Veterans Court. He also helped to foster and establish the Department's participation in the annual Veterans Stand Down, an event created to assist unhoused veterans. MCAPD is excited to welcome Wes back to the team in this new role!

# Vanessa Gillette Promoted to Research Assistant

By Sarah Harp



Vanessa Gillette became the Data Integrity & Analytics (DIA) Department's first Research Assistant for Adult Probation effective October 2021. She joined the MCAPD-DIA team in April 2020, as an Administrative Assistant. Vanessa was not new to public service when she joined the Department; she previously worked with Maricopa County's Animal Care and Control Department as well as the Office of Enterprise Technology. Her extensive experience in using technology to improve business processes has been a significant asset to the DIA team. Her ability to navigate her team through technology challenges presented by working remotely during the pandemic and her foresight in anticipating potential barriers before they occur allows DIA to continue to support Adult Probation in its mission, vision, and values.

Since joining the Department, Vanessa has served on the DIA SharePoint Committee and serves as a representative for the Cybersecurity Champion Cadre. Vanessa has been instrumental in the DIA's move towards improving the processes used to provide monthly statistical reports to Executive Leadership as well as larger projects such as the Victims Satisfaction Survey and the Administrative Office of the Court's Annual Performance Measures Report. When asked about what she looks forward to most in her new position, she stated,

"... becoming more proficient in visual analytics by further developing my analytical skills in SAS Viya, in addition to continuously improve aspects of our monthly stats processes." Congratulations, Vanessa!



# 3rd Quarter P.R.I.D. E Winners

**APDCC:** Lorraine Mathews

BCB: Pamela Reese, Vanessa Chavez, Manuel Barron, Marisela Cordova, and Jaime Tullberg

**CCBLL:** Katherine Bruner **CSC:** Janet Acuna

**DTJC2 Training:** Ada Andreski and Mora Isom **DTJC3 Admin:** Brenda Crawley and Angelina Diaz

Durango: Daniel May and Ana Ramirez
Garfield: Marialice Haney and Jamie Lopez
ITR: Neil Smith and Cameron McGuire
Luhrs: Karla Clanton and Julie Cuen

Northport: Latisa Dightmon, Rachel McKay, and Cheryl White

Pretrial at SCT: Adriana Garcia Bloom, Michael Wechselberger, and Jennifer Borgen

PSC: Angel Williams, Mattea O'Connell, Karen Spitler, Roger Moore, Nicole Silver, and Amy Taylor

Scottsdale: Cleo Quinn and Cynthia Mapulanga

**South Court Tower:** Michelle Hernandez **SEF:** Kim Cullinan and Sandra Salazar

Southport: Jasmine Chavers and Melina Aldaco

**Sunnyslope:** Andres Rocha **SWJC:** Venisha Craig

WCB 5/6: Kathleen Defrees and Amy Starks

WRC: Kenneth Snodgrass, Samantha Rios, Richelle Bordine, and Maria Bustos



## Canine (K9) Pilot Program Launch

By Amy Ganz



When Kate Southards began her career with MCAPD in 2017, she knew she wanted to build a Canine (K9) Program for the Department. Persistence and dedication led Kate to submit a proposal for a pilot program utilizing both K9 Koa for firearms detection and K9 Steel for drug recognition detection. Koa and Steel are both the personal dogs of Probation Officer Kate Southards. After almost a year of hard work, Kate's dream is coming to life as the MCAPD pilot program launched effective December 1, 2021.

Who is Kate Southards? Kate started her career in Intensive Probation Supervision (IPS) at the BCB office after graduation from NOTES Academy. Since graduating, Kate continues to build her resume as a Thinking for a Change and Decision Points program instructor outside of her primary caseload. She also serves as a member of the Search Committee at BCB. In her spare time, Kate trains both of her K9s locally and abroad to keep them up-to-date with their certifications. She also works closely with local law enforcement agencies to ensure her K9s are ready for any possible situation that may occur when searching a field, building, or vehicle.

K9 Koa is a feisty four-year-old German Shepherd. She is currently certified by the International Police Working Dog Association. She has completed handler/K9 school through the Fayetteville Police Department and Ardent K9. Koa continues to complete multiple demonstrations for police agencies throughout the State of Arizona and trains with different task forces in northern Arizona. Not only does she work well with other officers, but she is also currently training with drones which has increased her skill level. When Koa is not working, she enjoys belly rubs and driving her mom crazy by barking and chasing her brother around the house. It is a true honor having Koa with the Department.

It is Kate's goal to enhance our current search ability and condense the amount of time it takes for officers to search a house or yard for firearms or ammunition. Community safety has always been a priority for MCAPD and with the utilization of a K9 they have continued to grow as an organization and lead throughout Maricopa County and the State of Arizona. If you or any of your officers would like to learn more about the K9 pilot program, please feel free to reach out to Kate. She is very passionate about this program and is excited to get started.

## **Equitable Partnerships with Incarcerated Women**

By Tazman Briggs

The Association of Justice-Involved Females and Organizations (AJFO) held a virtual conference October 26-28th, 2021, which focused on promising practices for justice-involved women and girls. The conference included a variety of intriguing sessions about topics such as gender-informed needs assessments, overcoming trauma, opportunities for empowerment, and other gender-informed policies and practices. In addition, there were plenary sessions which celebrated gender-related growth in different criminal-justice organizations across each of the country's regions.



The session "Participatory Research: Equitable Partnership WITH Incarcerated Women," presented by Kayla Powell, Mindi Tennapel, Kylie Spies, and Joseph Kim discussed a research project with a goal to gain better understanding of prison conditions and develop ideas about methods to make prisons safer and more rehabilitative for women. Something unique about this project is that the research being done is not only **studying** incarcerated women, but is being carried out completely **in conjunction with** incarcerated women. This approach of having a group of incarcerated women as co-researchers is called community-based participatory research (CBPR). That means the incarcerated women play a role in every step of the research project, including conceptualizing the project, developing the research questions, determining the subjects who should be involved, defining outcomes, analyzing data, and determining how to use the findings to develop potential solutions.

This session showed me how meaningful it can be to involve individuals with lived experience when conducting research. The Oxford Reference Dictionary defines lived experience as "personal knowledge about the world gained through direct, first-hand involvement in everyday events rather than through representations constructed by other people." Simply put, this describes individuals who have gone through an experience themselves.

Engaging individuals with lived experience can help researchers gain a more real world understanding of what is going on in a situation, instead of having to make inferences from questionnaires or surveys. There are challenges and limitations to involving an entire community or just anyone with lived-experience in every research project, but the knowledge gained from those with lived-experiences often provides great benefits to researchers.

The means and methods of involving those with lived experience in research are vast and continuously growing. One way of involving those with lived experience could be as simple as including a question on surveys that asks, "Are there any other questions that were not asked on this survey that should have been?" This small ask gives justice-involved individuals an opportunity to provide input or feedback to researchers that may have been

outside of the thought process or focus of the study. A powerful quote from this presentation that highlights the importance of engaging individuals with lived experience is, "Those who are closest to the problem are <u>closest</u> to the solution, but <u>furthest</u> from the resources and power."

## Justice-Involved Women Initiative and Caseloads

By Emily Styner

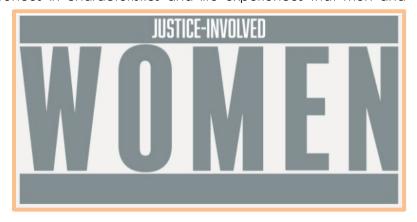
Did you know women's pathway to crime and offense patterns are different than those of men? Women and men even differ based on their psychological development. These differences between women and men are commonly relational, based on gender. It is for this reason, the MCAPD has worked to create and introduce the Justice-Involved-Women initiative (JIW) and caseloads.

The goal of the JIW initiative is the overall improvement of stability, safety, self-esteem, and self-confidence in the women served by the Department to also reduce recidivism. Adult Probation Officer Emily Styner and Supervisor Jenna Fitzgerald, both of the Western Regional Center, alongside Ted Milham have piloted the JIW caseload in the Western Division as of September of 2020. After much planning and developing during the pilot phase, JIW caseloads have now expanded to the Central and Eastern Divisions, the Central Sex-Offender Division, and Drug Court. These caseloads work to serve justice-involved women with unique barriers related to gender-specific issues, health, and trauma.

How is this being done? The JIW officers supervise a reduced caseload, allowing them to focus on the specific needs of the justice-involved individuals. The forefront of the JIW initiative and caseloads are working to build and maintain constant communication with collaborative partnerships including treatment providers, stakeholders, and other resources within our community. Additionally, trauma-informed approaches are a top priority, including introducing more trauma-informed training to not only the JIW officers, but also MCAPD as a department. Lastly, being gender responsive is a prominent characteristic of the JIW caseloads. Gender responsiveness means, understanding the differences in characteristics and life experiences that men and

women bring to the criminal justice system and adjusting practices in ways that appropriately respond to those conditions.<sup>1</sup>

Let's introduce the JIW team! Adult Probation Officer Emily Styner and Supervisor Jenna Fitzgerald currently supervise the Western Division. Adult Probation Officer Angel Camacho and Supervisor Megan Wiehn supervise the Central Division. Adult Probation Officer Shana Edmundson and Supervisor Amanda Peterson supervise the Eastern Division. Adult Probation



Officer Nichole Bailey, Surveillance Officer Karla Esparza, and Supervisor Andrea Romano supervise a Sex Offender JIW caseload in the Central Division. Adult Probation Officer Karla Rahn supervises a JIW caseload within Drug Court. Alongside these officers and supervisors Division Director Kristi Ward serves as project coordinator. Jonelle Acosta and Ada Andreski serve as collaborators with MCAPD's training department. Supervisor Heather Redmond serves as a collaborative partner with treatment providers. Sarah Harp and Tazman Briggs assist the JIW initiative as Management Analysts along with Emily Vance serving as a content creator.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Bloom, Owen, & Covington, 2003

Since the creation of the JIW specific caseloads, a variety of resources have become available to MCAPD employees, such as access to screening information, updates, caseload protocol, female-centric and trauma-informed care information, as well as various community resources. The JIW team is working diligently to prepare and expand trauma-informed training to the entire MCAPD in 2022. The future of justice-involved women, their respective caseloads, and the supervision strategies used within MCAPD are looking bright!

For additional information regarding the JIW initiative, updates, and trainings MCAPD employees are encouraged to visit the SharePoint site.

### Kayleigh's Law

By Antony Bidonde



Every **73 seconds** in the US a person is sexually assaulted. And every **nine minutes** that victim is a child.<sup>2</sup>

Senate Bill 1312, known as "Kayleigh's Law" was signed into effect on April 20, 2021. Kayleigh's Law provides the victims of certain designated crimes the ability to obtain a court injunction before the individual's probation term expires and establishes legal protections from being contacted by those that harmed them. As a result of this law, MCAPD must notify victims 45 days prior to the grant's expiration. Victims can use the previous conviction as explanation of why the protection order is necessary.

Arizona is the first state to offer this level of protection to victims of violent crime. It is a critical step for survivors of sexual and domestic violence, who often experience ongoing harassment and stalking from assailants and abusive partners, even post-conviction.

# Below are some links for further information regarding the new law:

Bill Text: Arizona SB1412:

https://legiscan.com/AZ/text/SB1412/id/2378973

The UpLift Network:

https://upliftnetwork.org/projects/kayleighslaw/?portfolioCats=84

Injunction Against Harassment Maricopa County:

https://superiorcourt.maricopa.gov/llrc/injunctions-againstharassment/

> Adult Probation Victim Services, apdvsu@jbazmc.maricopa.gov or call: 602-372-8286



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The UpLift Network

# 26th Annual Garfield Turkey Feast

By Melissa Froderman

The 26<sup>th</sup> annual Garfield Turkey Feast was held on Thursday, November 18, 2021 from three in the afternoon to six o'clock. It was a beautiful display of the caring and giving nature we as a department strive for every day. Turkey Feast is an event designed to give back to the neighborhood in the form of a delicious meal made by Community Kitchen, a visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus (Bryan and Jessica Ethington), music from DJ Manny Barron, and gifts for all the children.

This year, MCAPD was joined by Terros Health, who provided flu and COVID-19 vaccines and boosters as well as many other healthcare services. Arizona@Work was also on site helping with vocational opportunities. Arizona Probation Officers Association visited with children and families and the Department's education unit was also present, letting



our neighbors know about a variety of free services. In total, 437 meals were given out with leftovers going to various others in need and approximately 250 gift bags were given to children. These gift bags were filled with toys, books and hygiene items. In addition to their gift bags, each child was also given a stuffed animal. Steve Cockrell from Court Security patiently waited until his shift was over to dress up as a Storm Trooper and the Phoenix Fire Department even came to show off the truck to the kids and hand out stuffed animals.

Turkey Feast is a one-day event, but it takes numerous people, countless hours and many, many donations to pull off. Thank you to each and every one who contributed. You made a difference in the lives of children and adults and furthered the cause of building trust in a community which we serve. Volunteering for this event is such a privilege and seeing the children's faces and hearing "thank you" from the adults makes every minute of work worth it.

An additional thank you goes out to the Judicial Branch warehouse, who received too many packages to count, delivered all of them with ease, and also provided tables, chairs and shade for the volunteers standing in the sun.

Coordinators, volunteers and attendees include: Marie Long, Nathan Chaplin, Emily Vance, Kristi Wimmer, Dana Shepherd, David Taylor, Alex Battest, Diana Martinez, Jamie Lopez, Brittany Craine, Terry Lee and the Who I Am Foundation, Letty Martinez, Tricia Hall, Cheryl Zambriski, Danielle Golden, Brandon Shimizu, Dan Fox, Julie Wise, Martha Mays, Clint Bell, Jackie Chagolla, Adam Burriel, Victoria Holloway, Ivy Kinney, Jonelle Acosta, Heather Preston, Michele Butcher, Lisa Otto, Adriana Garcia-Bloom, Ryan Valley, Sean McMillan, Jason Walker, Ted Milham, Kyle Grove, and Jay Drake. And thank you to Chief Mike Cimino for making this event a priority. Without all of you, this event would not have been possible.







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